

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC MEETING: June 24, 2009 at the Northumberland Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville, VA 22473. An afternoon public meeting will be held from 2-4pm and the evening public meeting from 6-8pm. The Library asks that you please park at the side or in back of the building.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing a study to restore water quality for a shellfish growing area, a public comment opportunity, and two public meetings.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: First public meetings on a study to restore water quality for shellfish growing areas along Cod, Presley, Hull, Rogers, and Bridgeman Creeks, Fountain Cove, Cubitt, and Hack Creeks which are impaired due to bacterial violations.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination in the shellfish growing waters of these (tidal) Creeks including their tributaries. These condemnations include a total area of approximately 1.18 square miles in Northumberland County. These streams are impaired for failure to meet the designated use of shellfish consumption because of bacterial water quality standard violations. Cubitt Creek also has a recreational impairment (swimming) of approximately 0.227 square miles. The recreational water quality standard is less stringent than that of the shellfish standard, therefore it is expected that clean-up efforts aimed at restoring the shellfish use will also result in attainment of the recreational use.

Stream	County	Area (miles ²)	Impairment
Cod Creek (left branch)	Northumberland	0.115	Shellfish Use (Fecal Coliform) bacteria
Cod Creek (right branch)		0.079	
Hull Creek (mainstem)		0.044	
Bridgeman Creek		0.045	
Rogers Creek		0.035	
Fountain Cove		0.087	
Hack Creek		0.215	
Cubitt Creek		0.227	Shellfish Use (Fecal Coliform) & Recreational Use (Enterococci)

The study reports the current status of the Creeks via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Health - Division of Shellfish Sanitation, shellfish area condemnations and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will expire on July 23, 2009. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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